permission the importer has to apply to the concerned State Pollution Control Board for import authorisation. The licence for imports of wastes is issued by the DGFT after receiving the application enclosed with authorisation document issued by the State Pollution Control Board.

The Hon'ble High court of Delhi on 10.4.1996 in Writ Petition No.67/96— M/s Harshwardhan Steel Vs. Union of India and Others ordered that the Government of India should ensure that no toxic waste is imported into the country. The Ministry of Environment & Forests has not granted any permission for export of wastes to India after the Delhi High Court order of 10.4.1996 and has also written to all the State Pollution Control Boards to strictly comply with the High Court's order and not to grant any import authorisation.

Introduction of shuttle train between Ahmedabad and Palanpur

*152 SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been brought to his notice that a large number of daily passengers residing at Ahmedabad, and required to go to Palanpur, are facing difficulty due to non-availability of any shuttle train; and

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken for the introduction of a shuttle train leaving Ahmedabad in the morning and Palanpur in the evening?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Due to gauge conversion works, train services including between Ahmedabad and Palanpur were curtailed in phases.

After conversion of Delhi-Ahmedabad route, 9105/9106 Delhi-Ahmedabad Mail and 9653/9654 Ahmedabad-Ajmer Fast Passenger have been provided from 3.5.97 and 11.5.97 respectively serving Ahmedabad and Palanpur.

It is proposed to introduce 2915/2916 Ashram Express w.e.f. 1.8.97 and a shuttle DMU train between Ahmedabad and Abu Road serving Palanpur during 1997-98.

(b) A morning shuttle between Ahmedabad and Palanpur is not proposed at present due to operational and resource constraints.

Consumption of Petroleum products

*153. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether consumption of petroleum products like petrol and diesel has shown a rising trend during the last two years and so far during the current year; if so, the extent thereof;

(b) what was the consumption of petrol and diesel during the above mentioned period;

(c) whether any steps have been taken to reduce the consumption of petrol and diesel; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if no steps have been taken, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir. The sale of petrol and diesel has shown high growth during the last 2 years and during April-June, 1997. The percentage growth in sale of petrol and diesel during this period is detailed below:—

Year	Petrol	Diesel
1995-96	13.0	14.1
1996-97	6.4	9.1
1997 (April-June)	2.4	9.3

(b) The total consumption of petrol and diesel is given below:

(Fig. in TMT)

Year	Petrol	Diesel
1995-96	4679	32254
1996-97	4980	35176
1997 (April-June)	1315	9676